

10-1-2006

Hands Across New York: Alumni Luncheon Builds A Bridge Between Cities

UB Law Forum

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum

Recommended Citation

UB Law Forum (2006) "Hands Across New York: Alumni Luncheon Builds A Bridge Between Cities," *UB Law Forum*: Vol. 19 : No. 1 , Article 61.

Available at: https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum/vol19/iss1/61

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Alumni Publications at Digital Commons @ University at Buffalo School of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in UB Law Forum by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University at Buffalo School of Law. For more information, please contact lawscholar@buffalo.edu.

Alumni Association

Hands across New York

Alumni luncheon builds a bridge between cities

New York's upstate-downstate divide melted away in good food and good feelings as UB Law graduates in New York City gathered for their annual alumni luncheon on Jan. 27, 2006.

The luncheon, subsidized by the UB Law Alumni Association, has become a January tradition. This year it featured a non-alumnus – Judge Albert M. Rosenblatt of the New York State Court of Appeals – whose affection for Buffalo, both historically and in the present, was evident.

In the upscale Union League Club in Manhattan, Dean Nils Olsen greeted the attendees with current news from the Law School, including the school's brand-new collaboration in international finance with the Levin Institute in the New York metro area. "We hope this will reconnect us with New York City," he said.

Because the luncheon immediately followed the annual meeting of the New York State Bar Association, Olsen added his congratulations to two UB Law alumni who were honored at that gathering: Lourdes Ventura '98, president of the Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County, whose group was honored for its success; and Terrence M. Connors '71 of the Buffalo law firm Connors & Vilardo, who was honored with the Attorney Professionalism Award.

Rosenblatt, whose J.D. is from Harvard Law School, began his career as an assistant district attorney and DA in



Judge Albert M. Rosenblatt of the New York State Court of Appeals

Dutchess County before moving to the bench in county court, State Supreme Court and now the Court of Appeals, New York State's highest court. He has published widely in professional journals and has written a widely used manual on search warrants. Recently turned 70 – the mandatory retirement age for a state justice – he is also a certified ski instructor and a championship squash player.

The jurist began by thanking those who hosted the Court of Appeals in its recent session held in the Law School's courtroom. "We had such a wonderful time, and you were fabulous hosts," he said, noting that the court heard cases on such matters as limits on the authority of Buffalo housing police to make

arrests; emotional tests for civil service employment; and, "most difficult of all, whether mulch could be characterized as solid waste."

Beyond that experience, Rosenblatt drew two other connections – one historical, one literary – for his audience of Buffalo loyalists.

One was "someone who is dear to us both – your founder and my former colleague." That would be Charles Daniels, a State Supreme Court justice in Erie County who was drafted to serve as the Law School's first dean when the school was established in 1887.

Rosenblatt quoted the school's first yearbook: "Probably no law school in the country was organized and launched in its career with fewer of the

usual helpful conditions than the University of Buffalo. It had no endowment, no lecture hall, no association with an established college. But it did possess a group of earnest people, judges and practicing attorneys living in Buffalo."

Continuing with a brief history of the Law School's early days, Rosenblatt called to mind the school's first class – 15 men meeting in a classroom in the school's original Ellicott Street Building. Tuition, he noted, was \$100.

And Dean Daniels? He served for one year on the Court of Appeals, in 1869, thus making him Rosenblatt's historical colleague. On the court, Daniels authored 19 decisions and seven dissents, and, said Rosenblatt, "distinguished himself in his very first case," a landlord-tenant matter.

Rosenblatt and his wife, Julia Carlson Rosenblatt, are aficionados of Sherlock Holmes; each has published a book about the great fictional detective. And so as a member of the group of Holmes devotees known as the Baker Street Irregulars, the judge was keen to note that the first stage play about Holmes had its American premiere on Oct. 23, 1899, at the Star Theater in Buffalo. "It was a smash hit," Rosenblatt said, "and, according to the review, was conducted before 'a large and critical audience.' Which is to say, a very sophisticated group of theatergoers in Buffalo. It opened in New York City two weeks later, and Sherlock Holmes was launched on his way."

In parting, Rosenblatt continued his historical theme by giving each attendee a calendar from the Historical Society of the Courts of the State of New York. Each month of the calendar features one of the state's historic county courthouses, drawn from old postcards. And it starts the year off right: The old county courthouse in Buffalo, serving Erie County, is Miss January.



John T. Frizzell '55 and Hon. John M. Curran '84



Vice Dean Alan S. Carrel '67 and Denise E. O'Donnell '82



Jo W. Faber '82



Lourdes M. Ventura '98 and Mickey H. Osterreicher '98



Steven E. Golden '85